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Let us suppose for a moment that the Czar of Russia were to send to Washington a protest against the Wilmington lynching. How would we like it? It is dead easy to tell how to remedy evils at a distance.

Triumphantly re-elected by his union, despite the evidence that he has been making thousands of dollars by various schemes of extortion, Walking Delegate Sam Parks, of New York, threatens to call a national strike in the building trades. What organized labor sadly needs is fewer men of the Parks and more of the Mitchell type.

More men are wanted in the Indiana oil districts. Where, indeed, are not more men wanted? Never in the history of the country was labor in such demand or so well paid. No man need be without work except by his own will, but all over the United States an astonishing number are idle of their own choice. It is a strange situation.

The public is likely to hear of more Tillman murders before the trial of James H. Tillman, of South Carolina, is over. His counsel, another Tillman, a cousin, appears in court armed in "both hip pockets." Even if they had a law in Carolina against the carrying of concealed weapons, this person would not be amenable to it, as he makes no effort to conceal his "guns."

While George Vanderbilt is cogitating his purpose to build a model manufacturing town, it might be just as well for him to look into the history of Pullman, Ill. There was as grievous a failure of well-meant paternalism as ever happened. The American workingman guards his individual independence and self-reliance with very jealous care, and it is the same spirit of independent self-reliance that makes him the best workman in the world.

Sympathy for Captain Ewen is taking quite a practical form among the better class of people in Kentucky. A considerable sum of money has been raised for relief, and at Louisville he has been offered a position with a comfortable salary and a house, rent free. Captain Ewen is the man whose house was burned and himself rendered penniless by the desperadoes at Jackson because he told the truth on the witness stand.

The figures of new railroad mileage completed during the first half of 1903 show that the greatest extension was in Oklahoma, 240 miles, next Texas with 205 miles and third the Indian Territory with 203 miles. All of the older States were away behind these, even New York reporting only two miles and a half of new road. The figures indicate that the principal railway extension during the next few years will probably be in the Southwestern and Northwestern States.

The government will assign not less than 500 revenue officers to exercise close supervision over foreign exhibits at the St. Louis world's fair and see that none are sold without payment of duty. No duty will be required on foreign goods that are taken out of the country at the close of the exposition, but imported goods that are sold in this country will be assessed the regular revenue charge. Prospective purchasers should understand this and not imagine they will be able to get ahead of Uncle Sam.

A recent article in the Journal contrasting the verbose oath of office taken by the new King of Servia with the extremely simple one administered to the President of the United States leads a friend to ask: "If there is no mention of God in the oath taken by the President, how can it be called an oath?" There is good authority for calling it an oath. The Constitution says: "Before the President enter on the execution of his office he shall take the following oath or affirmation: 'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'" The usual "So help me God" is omitted. Instead of this it has been the custom from the beginning for the President to solemnize the oath by kissing the Bible. This custom prevails in the District of Columbia and in the Supreme Court of the United States. Even that, however, is not required by the Constitution.

THE BIBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

A new phase of the question of Bible reading in the public schools has come up in New York. There was a time when the question was a cause of bitter controversy between Catholics and Protestants. But that controversy was practically settled by the establishment of Catholic parochial schools in which religious instruction is imparted by methods approved by the church. The law in Indiana says "The Bible shall not be excluded from the public schools of the State." This simply provides against the exclusion of the Bible by school authorities or teachers. Any teacher of a public school in this State may introduce Bible reading as an exercise if he or she desires to do so, and doubtless it is done in some schools. The law simply says the Bible shall not be excluded, but as it does not prescribe its use, the question of using it seems to be optional with school authorities.

The question has come up in New York on a complaint made by Jews of sectarian influence in the public schools. At a convention of the Unions of Orthodox Jews held a few days ago resolutions were adopted voicing this complaint on the four counts following:

First—That the by-laws by which the school sessions are to be opened by the reading of a few verses from the Bible is in some cases interpreted to mean a few verses from the New Testament.

Second—That the children are taught to sing moral selections that include specifically Christian hymns of a distinctively doctrinal, sectarian character and which are applied to the founder of those doctrines and symbols.

Third—That in preparation for the winter vacation, plays, hymns and other exercises of a distinctly Christian character and expressive of the specifically Christian sentiment of reverence for Christmas are taught and recited.

Fourth—That the impression is conveyed to the children that their attendance at one session at all events is desirable on days which are Jewish holidays.

The complaint was brought before the superintendent of schools and he assured the committee that the Board of Education would instruct the teachers that the practices referred to must be discontinued. The only complaint now being considered is that of reading the Bible in the schools, which is probably done as a brief morning exercise. The objection made by the Jewish patrons of the schools is to reading from the New Testament. Reading from the Old Testament would be equally a compliance with the rule, and there are some excellent books in that to read from—the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and parts of other books. It seems a pity, however, that if the Bible is to be read in the public schools at all teachers should be barred from reading any of the beautiful passages, instructive lessons or noble discourses found in the New Testament. Unquestionably the highest ethics, the best moral lessons and the most practical religion found in the Bible are in the New Testament. They are as good for Jewish children as for those of gentiles, and any child that grows up without having learned them is immeasurably poorer in his moral assets.

That the complaint of the Jewish patrons of the schools is founded on narrow ideas is shown by the fact that they also object to the singing of distinctly Christian hymns and to the use of plays and hymns "of a distinctly Christian character and expressive of the Christian sentiment of reverence for Christmas." This objection would rule out most of the standard hymns in the English language and would practically eliminate Christmas exercises in the schools. Surely it could not hurt Jewish children to join in the singing of hymns which have stood the test of generations, or to participate in Christmas exercises in commemoration of Him who came to bring on earth peace and good will toward men. It can hardly be possible that the orthodoxy of a Jewish child would be undermined by such exercises, and certainly his morals could not be hurt. The complaint seems far-fetched and almost frivolous.

Such a complaint would hardly be made by the Jews in New York if they did not feel they were numerous enough to give them political importance, nor would their demand be conceded by the school authorities if they did not recognize the same fact. It is only one of many instances in which, in one way or another, under one pretext or another, politics has made itself felt in the management of public schools. If the school authorities of New York city had been brave enough to stand squarely for principle they would have taken the ground that as this is a Christian country and as the reading of the Bible is required in the public schools they would not restrict such reading to a part of the Bible. By agreeing to exclude the New Testament they have practically dechristianized the schools, thus yielding to what they feared might take the form of political influence.

A FALSE "PHILOSOPHY."

An eminent lecturer recently declared: "People say that we should have charity, for charity clothes the naked and gives food to the hungry, but if we have justice reigning we will have no naked to clothe and no hungry to feed." The statement is not true either as a deduction from the operation of human or natural law. No injustice is found in the decay of the acorn that neither absorbs nor reaches after the elements of life and growth. There is no injustice in the natural law that the bear which hibernates must consume its own vitality unless it puts forth effort. Justice as applied to the rights of individuals will not prevent poverty as long as there is difference in talent and variety of conscientious effort to succeed. The poverty in the civilized races is not due to any misapplication of laws or of justice. Inequality in this particular, as applied to economic success and thrift, is not due to pressure from the outside so much as from lack of pressure from the inside of the man or class.

The opportunities for alleviation of what we call poverty are so complete in civilized countries where the commercial and industrial instinct has developed production and at the same time increased the wants of mankind, that, with few exceptions, too few to more than prove the rule, poverty is unnecessary. There is no excuse in the operation of economic laws and the application of the law of nature as applied to product for the poverty of any large class of people. Examination of the poor of large cities proves that their poverty is, in the majority of cases, the outcome of personal neglect of all the laws of living and work. Nine-tenths of the calls for charity come from those who in prosperous times waste their substance in riotous living, who spend their summers in idleness with the expectation that winter will bring ready response to their calls for sustenance, and who, by neglect of all the laws of sanitation, physical effort and decent appreciation of the need of work, make themselves dependent upon their fellows.

Such utterances as the above by men who are supposed to be wise tend constantly to a feeling of relief from responsibility on the part of the indolent and the unthrifty. They charge their misfortunes to the injustice of their fellows, to the wrong operation of law, or to the fates as opposed to their success. If such philosophers as the lecturer mentioned above would teach their fellows that no man in this world, rich or poor, who is possessed of mental and physical powers, has any right to let those powers lie dormant, they would do mankind a great service. Such false philosophies of existence as put upon government and upon society the responsibility for failure in the individual or class are deleterious to mankind, and never should be promulgated by those who assume to lead men in their development.

WORK BEGETS WORK.

Once there was a theory that there was just so much work in the world to be done, and as corollaries from this flowed the belief that every new worker crowded an old one out and the notion that every piece of labor-saving machinery must crowd out as many workers as it would save hands on the particular job it did. Hence there was smashing of machinery when it was first introduced, and very formidable relics of this theory exist even to-day in the restrictions of labor unions concerning the number of apprentices to be employed and the number of machine tools one man is permitted to attend, and this same theory is something of a factor in the demand for shorter hours, though this demand is usually defended on more reasonable grounds.

If any man really believes in that sort of thing in this day and age, let him look abroad in the land and note the cry that is going up from the farms of every wheat-growing States for men to help gather the crops. Statistics show that there are more farm laborers in Indiana to-day than at any time during her history, yet the offer of wages almost double those of thirty years ago is outstanding by nearly every farmer in the State for harvest hands. When the reaper and the threshing machine succeeded the scythe and the flail, when the self-binder and the pneumatic stacker came in to do the work of many men, there was much shaking of wise heads and gloomy forebodings of what was to become of the laborer with the bread taken out of his mouth by these tireless machines. But the laborer's bread is more plentiful than ever, and, instead of putting him out of business, every advance in machinery has eventually brought him a greater share of the world's wealth in return for a given amount of toil.

The lesson of it all is that work begets work. Man's struggle is for conquest of nature and for the application of natural forces to his aid. Every time an inventor discovers some new and better method of harnessing one of Nature's forces and compelling it to do the work of man he adds something to the world's store of wealth, and in the natural order of events we all share more or less in the benefits.

TO RESTRAIN DIVORCE.

Peter, Peter, punkin-eater,
Had a wife and couldn't keep her.

In these days of many divorces and rumors of divorce, days when the cautious citizen fears to ask his friend how his wife is, lest over-night she has departed by way of the courthouse and he no longer has any wife—it is now that the ancient ditty above quoted comes to mind and the lucky man or woman without domestic complications and no matrimonial dynamite in the family cellar—so far as he or she knows—begins to wonder and meditate concerning social conditions.

These conditions, of course, are not pleasing. Apart from the moral view of the situation, and from the attitude toward the world of the divorced persons themselves, there is the objection to divorce that it is extremely annoying and inconvenient to the general public. This side of the matter is seldom presented, but it is time mention should be made of it. After the people of a community have come to know Mr. and Mrs. John Smith and have them safely adjusted in the proper mental niche, it is unpleasant to be called on suddenly to readjust them; to be required to remember that Mrs. John Smith is now Mrs. Mary Smith, or possibly, with her maiden name restored, Miss Mary Jones; and to be perpetually on guard lest, in absent-minded moments, they forget the marital cataclysm and inquire solicitously of John about the health of Mrs. John, or vice versa, or invite them both to dinner. It involves still greater intellectual strain when a second Mrs. John appears upon the scene and Mrs. John number one re-enters as Mrs. Brown. When the case of the Smiths is multiplied, and an acquaintance on every block has shaken off matrimonial shackles, then such a burden is imposed upon the memory of the people of the community as to constitute a real and serious grievance. Almost it is enough to make them declare a divorced couple a nuisance not longer worth considering. Feeling that they are wronged, naturally they have a right to discuss and suggest possible remedies. It is, of course, not worth while to recommend the plan adopted by Peter, the famous punkin-eater, who, as a last resort, it will be remembered, "put his wife in a punkin shell, and there he kept her very well." Peter could not do it in these advanced days. She would not stay in the shell; he could not keep her there. Times have changed since his day, as a Pennsylvania preacher, who has been all over the country in vain search of a wife, will testify. "I want a woman," he modestly says, "whose only pleasure is her home and God"—and he cannot find her. No; other times, other customs. Woman has formed a habit of breaking out of the home shell when it pleases her, and, harmful be the habit or not, she can never be perpetually caged there again; so the shutting up remedy will not suffice.

Nor will moral exhortation serve. Has not the pulpit been thundering against divorce from time out of mind? And to what good? Men and women solemnly promise to cleave together "for better or for worse," and at the first hint of "worse" they fly apart, causing, as said before, much vexation of spirit to their innocent friends and acquaintances.

Something more practical than mere moral suasion or consideration for the public must be devised for the breaking up of the divorce habit. As a possible solution the Journal suggests a system of insurance. So far as it is aware, no such form of insurance is now in operation, but why should it not be practicable? A policy taken out for each young couple at the time of their marriage, payable to the survivor on the death of either provided they have remained married to each other up to that time, might serve as a bond where other ties would fail. The average young man or woman has an eye to the main chance in this commercial age, and a pecuniary reward for "putting up" with the shortcomings of the other would be extremely likely to recommend itself. With a good round number of dollars coming in the end the pair might be induced to "stick it out" when no other motive would be sufficient. Or there might be a time limit. A policy payable at the end of twenty years of continuous marriage would have its attractions. By that time the public would be reasonably safe, for when a man and woman have lived together for twenty years they have become so accustomed even to each other's "cussedness" that it no longer hurts and they would feel lost in its absence. And a ten, or even a five-year policy would have advantages. It would be something for the community to be saved for five or ten years from the necessity of regarding singly and separately the two persons it had learned to look upon as of one family. The young couple with something of this sort to look forward to might not refrain from "sassing" each other—an exchange of personalities that goes down as "cruelty" in the divorce court—but the "sass" would not be held so deadly an offense; the wife might forget to cook the dinner on occasion and the husband fail to turn over the desired amount of cash without fatal results; he might even smile on another and be forgiven. Oh, yes, undoubtedly marriage insurance would be a good thing. Once made possible, paid-up policies would instantly take their place as a popular wedding gift and the public thereby be protected. It has rights which should be looked after. The Journal offers its suggestion freely to whom it may concern, with the hope that it will be duly considered and acted on.

"BUNGALOOISM."

Students of sociology have noted that large cities are subject to various "waves" of crime, general outbreaks that sometimes have a logical cause in reigning conditions, but more frequently have no other cause than the power of example. Thus there will be a series of murders committed by different people, a general prevalence of petty thieving or an outbreak of rowdyism, such as the celebrated wave of "Hooliganism" which bade fair to swamp the London constabulary in 1900.

To combat some such wave the Indianapolis police authorities have found it necessary to adopt stern repressive measures against what is locally known as "bungalooism." Additional sergeants have been appointed and orders issued to officers and patrolmen to act promptly and strenuously at the first approach toward hoodlum tactics in any quarter. Some years ago there were a couple of small gangs of hoodlums in Indianapolis known as "the Boo Gang," with its center of activity in the southeastern part of the city and its activities largely devoted to beer-drinking in the railroad yards, and "the Bungaloo Gang," which operated in the northwestern part of town and came into occasional clash with negroes on Indiana avenue.

Both of these gangs have long since dispersed, but the word "Bungaloo" has survived as a rallying cry for any crowd of rowdies that may collect in any part of the city. Race prejudice bobs up frequently and there are frequent attacks on negroes to record; especially in the northwestern part of the city, but "Bungalooism" is not practiced on negroes alone, as a good many broken heads of white men will testify. Almost invariably the participants in these little riots are irresponsible boys in their later 'teens, and, while the damage has never, as yet, been very great, the outbreaks have occasionally looked very serious. The spirit of riot and mob violence grows, of course, with great rapidity, and the police are moving none too soon in their special effort to repress it. A few penitentiary sentences for assault with intent to kill will have a very salutary effect in making these lads stop to think before rushing pell-mell into the first trouble that presents itself.

There are indications that that venerable sheet, with its fine literary traditions, Harper's Weekly, is now being edited by young persons just out of school who desire to "mold public opinion." Anything more immature and silly than an article in the current issue on the Hanna wedding it would be hard to find. The writer sees in that event and the presence there of the President and "other mighty men" a political rather than a social affair, and says "the conclusion is clear that, at least, the Republican leaders stand apart, as a class, and that their social functions are among the most important functions of the party." Then, after berating the party at some length and pointing out the shortcomings in its history, together with its aristocratic tendencies, he concludes with this prediction:

In time, we may see the President making the rounds of the country houses of his party's social and political leaders, just as the Queen used to pay visits to the Whig nobility when she wanted to show her sympathy with Melbourne, or to the Tory nobility when she was exerting her royal influence for Peel when he was trying to repeal the corn laws, or against Gladstone when he was intent upon looking after the affairs of England and upon leaving liberty to have her sweet way among foreign countries.

Is Editor Harvey taking his vacation? If so, he will do well to come home and remove the children from his staff, or at least edit their "copy." Such rubbish in a once-dignified and respected paper causes the judicious to grieve.

And now comes Kokomo with plans for a coliseum, with a probability of having it built before Indianapolis has her proposed structure under way. However, the Indianapolis coliseum will be a fixed fact sooner or later. The city simply has to have such a building. Nor is it surprising that the smaller cities and towns are making efforts in this direction. Few towns of any size but have occasional need for accommodations for a crowd larger than any available hall will accommodate and for entertainments not suitable to be held in churches, which usually supply the largest audience rooms in such communities. The existence of a coliseum will itself bring entertainments and large gatherings, and as a mere investment it is worth considering.

It is said the exports of boots and shoes from the United States during the fiscal year ending on the 30th inst. will exceed those of any previous year, both in quantity and value. This trade is a growth of comparatively recent years. In 1890 we exported 527,108 pairs of boots and shoes; in 1900 we exported 3,016,720 pairs, and in the year just closing we exported over 4,000,000 pairs, valued at between $6,000,000 and $7,000,000. American boots and shoes go to all parts of the world, and especially in large quantities to England and the British colonies. The manufacture of boots and shoes chiefly by machinery is distinctly an American industry. Their manufacture by hand was one of the earliest industries established in the colonies, and it continued to grow till it developed into machine manufacturing. Prior to 1815 most of the shoes were hand-sewed or copper-nailed. About 1815 wooden shoe pegs were substituted for copper nails. The first machine that proved of any use in the manufacture of shoes was introduced in 1845. Of this it was said "a man could do in a minute what would require half an hour's hard work with a lapstone and hammer." The next advance was a machine for making wooden pegs, and then a hand-power machine for driving them. Since then nearly a score of machines have been invented for doing other parts of the work, and the industry has grown until it looks as if the time will come when the United States will shoe the world. In 1900 the amount of capital invested in the industry was $101,795,000 and the value of the products was $261,028,580.

The old-fashioned charivari, otherwise known as "shiveree"—the hideous "serenade" sometimes given to newly married couples in remote rural districts, has fallen into disuse in all self-respecting communities and is properly regarded as a very vulgar and unseemly affair. The young people of Indianapolis who have drifted into the way of playing pranks on their newly married friends probably do not consider themselves in the same class with those who indulge in "shiveree" practices, but that is precisely where they belong. The horseplay, the tooting of horns as an accompaniment to the departure of the bride and groom, the tying of ribbons and placards to their carriage and their trunks, the showering of rice upon them at the station, the various devices for drawing upon them the unwelcome attention of strangers—all these things exceed the limits of wholesome and allowable fun and come close upon the verge of hoodlumism. If pranks must be played let them be confined within home limits.

The secretary of state of Missouri declined to issue articles of incorporation to the Gegenseiter Schwaben Frauen Unterstuntzungs Verein on the ground that the name was unpronounceable. He was too critical. All he had to do was to follow copy without pronouncing the name. The Journal printers and proof readers will have no trouble with it.

According to a Chicago dispatch, the "homeliest man in the country" has been arrested there, charged with eloping with one of the prettiest girls of Denver. When did it become a crime for a homely man to marry a pretty girl? And what a lot of Chicago men would suffer if only the handsome ones were free from arrest when married!

As nearly as can be figured out the report of the experts on the city water means that it is of aqueous composition containing multitudinous microscopic bacteria which are possibly innocuous but probably deleterious, and which can only be seen when visible.

The tirade of Governor Beckham, of Kentucky, is about the first glimpse the general public outside his own State has had of this young man, since he succeeded Goebel. He was an accident in the first place and seems to have been a bad accident at that.

It might not be out of place to suggest that to-day somebody pray for the proprietors of summer-resort hotels. They need it this season, if anybody does.

The Wabash is to be dredged and it is within the realm of possibility that Lafayette may again become a seaport.

The weather man seems determined to make the Saturday half-holiday a frost this summer.

THE HUMORISTS.

Down He Went.

Philadelphia Press.

St. Peter—What did you do on earth?
Gambler—Well, I—er—kept a dive, but——
St. Peter—Take one now.

Just Possible.

Philadelphia Record.

"You can't always judge a man's prosperity from the fact that he smokes 25-cent cigars," says the Manayunk Philosopher. "Maybe his wife is wearing her last year's hat."

Kept Her Word.

Chicago News.

Edyth—Aunt Margaret used to say she wouldn't marry the best man on earth.
Mayme—And did she keep her word?
Edyth—Yes; but she got married, just the same.

Michigan News.

A granger who came from Twin Views,
Sat in with a nice stack of bliews.
Ere the midnight bell tolled
His feet grew so cold
That he had to stuff hay in his shiews.
—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Friends and Relatives.

Kansas City Journal.

"So the poor fellow's dead?"
"Yes, and he left all his money to charity. His funeral was very largely attended."
"Ah, yes, he had lots of friends; I don't suppose he had any enemies at all."
"Oh, yes; a few; he had several relatives."

A Reasonable Reason.

New York Weekly.

Prisoner—Ef ye plaze, y'r anner, Oi wud loik to widdraw me plea of "not guilty," an' put in a plea of "guilty."
Judge—Then why didn't you plead "guilty" in the first place and save all this trouble?
Prisoner—Sure, y'r anner, Oi had not heard the ividence.

That Settled It.

A roving young lady of Gloucester
Who oft made her folks think they'd loucester
Stayed right in the house
As still as a mouse
When she'd married a husband who boucester.
And then this young lady from Gloucester
Whose husband so rigidly boucester
Got even by crying
And recklessly buying
Fine clothing, no odds what it coucester.
—Baltimore American.

His Excellent Scheme.

Chicago Post.

"Are you bothered much by beggars and tramps?"
"Not now, although I used to be."
"How did you stop it?"
"I tacked a little sign beside the kitchen door. It can't be seen until one almost reaches the door, but the tramps and beggars back away when they do see it."
"It's 'Beware of the Dog!' I suppose."
"Oh, no."
"What, then?"
"It's just 'Workmen Wanted.'"

A Paternal Beast.

Sydney (N. S. W.) Bulletin.

Teacher—Tell me the name of the animal which provides food and raiment for the Laplanders.
Tommy—The reindeer.
Teacher—And now what is the animal which provides you with most of your food and clothes?
Tommy—Father.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

A model baker shop in which electricity will operate all the machinery and furnish the heat for the baking will be an interesting feature in the Palace of Agriculture at the world's fair.

In the arctic regions, when the thermometer is below zero, persons can converse more than a mile distant. Dr. Jamieson said that he heard every word of a sermon at the distance of two miles.

A denial has been made by a Berlin print that Emperor William made the remark that "it is only Americans that come up to my requirements," but, it is added, this does not prevent the German Emperor from recognizing to the fullest measure the qualities of the Americans which have secured for them so important a position in the world of commerce.

Ernest Legouve, who recently celebrated his ninety-seventh birthday, was asked to what he attributed his long life and good health. "No cares, no ennui, no sorrows—that's one reason of my good health," he replied. "But that is not enough. The body must be kept elastic, and for this reason we must walk, play billiards, and, above all, fence. For me fencing is the ideal exercise."

A Viennese journalist declares that William II, if he had not inherited a throne, would have made an ideal editor. He knows everything that is going on, and never loses a chance to say the first word about current events. It appears that he has a habit of writing marginal comments on newspaper clippings that are given to him, and some of these are said to be very bright and often sarcastic.

Helen Keller, the wonderful blind, deaf and dumb girl, is rivaled by Katie McGirt, a pupil of the New York Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. She has a fine education, uses the typewriter, does fine needlework and goes bicycling. Specialists who have seen her believe she excels Miss Keller in "horse sense" and in ability to make her own living by fingerwork. Her voice, too, is said to be sweeter and stronger.

When ten years ago the late Max O'Rell lectured in Grand Rapids, Mich., the manager of the hall called during the afternoon before his appearance to pay him his fee of $100. "But I have not delivered the lecture yet," said the French wit. "Suppose I should die before to-night?" "Oh, that's all right. I'd exhibit your corpse," replied the manager. The lecturer never recovered from the shock of the remark and refused to appear at Grand Rapids again.

The Duke of Connaught, when coming home from India in the battleship Renown, determined to inquire personally into the condition of naval stokers. In spite of protests he descended into the boiler room. Having been provided with a proper kit and a shovel, he proceeded to stoke coal with all the enthusiasm at his command. At the end of half an hour his Highness confessed that he had enough, and he yielded up his shovel with the admission that naval stokers have no easy time.

There is a story going the rounds of the Western papers about twin brothers, one of whom was demented and was ordered by the court to be committed to an asylum. The other brother accompanied him to the institution. Soon after the twin brothers had arrived at the asylum the sheriff received a telegram from the superintendent, saying: "Two men who look just alike here from your county, one for commitment. One is talking of building a railroad to the moon and the other says that the Republican party is opposed to trusts. Which is the crazy man?"

The most literary monarch in Europe is without doubt the young Victor Emanuel of Italy. He knows English, French and German equally as well as his native language, and has even a reading acquaintance with that very difficult language, Russian. He spends at least three hours every day in his study busy with current literature of every kind. He is said to prefer the monthly reviews to daily journals; but, however this may be, it is quite certain that no monarch alive keeps himself more thoroughly posted in all questions of the day. He has more than once astonished English visitors by his intimate acquaintance with the intricacies of their party politics and social questions, in which he is better read than many members of the British Parliament.

LINCOLN'S EARLY DAYS.

Some Reminiscences of His Boyhood in Indiana.

Gentryville (Ind.) Letter in St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Until a few years ago there was in Gentryville an old wooden fire shovel, on which Lincoln had traced these verses:

Time—what an empty vapor 'tis,
And days, how swift they are;
Swift as an arrow speed our lives,
Swift as a shooting star.
The present moment—

The stanza was not finished, but it was kept for many years until the old fire shovel disappeared, and its whereabouts are unknown to this day.

There used to be a character around Gentryville in its early days known as "Old Holmes," who was often intoxicated.

One winter night "Old Holmes" would have been frozen but for Lincoln, who found him and carried him home, sitting up all night to resuscitate him. This incident started a temperance wave over Spencer county, and the debates were startling and interesting.

Half way up the long wandering street for many years stood an old blacksmith shop. In front of it was a wide spreading tree that still waves its boughs, but every sign of the old shop is gone.

The ground on which stood the smithy for years was owned by Rev. Fred Heuring, past commander of the Indiana Grand Army of the Republic, but is now the property of Jacob Dendinger, a town marshal.

This old blacksmith shop was a famous place in the life of Gentryville, and was a favorite resort for the people of Spencer county.

The old blacksmith, whose name every one seems to have forgotten, was a natural story-teller, and he had around him a crowd of as good story-tellers as himself.

Abraham Lincoln was at this shop a great deal, and it was a common resort for his father, Thomas Lincoln, and Abraham's uncles, John and Dennis Hanks. The shop was the country news stand and the lecture platform, and it was there that Abraham Lincoln learned many of the stories that he told in after life.

It was here that Dennis Hanks told the story of Sykes's dog, a story that Lincoln told to Grant after the fall of Vicksburg, and which was one of the most famous of Lincoln's stories.

Sykes had a dog that was a nuisance, and some one fed him a large cartridge that exploded, and the animal never amounted to much after that as a dog.

Lincoln's application of the story was that those who were complaining of Grant for paroling so many of Pemberton's army did not realize that after the fall of Vicksburg it did not amount to much as an army.

The Crawford school which Abraham Lincoln attended was situated about three miles from here. It was built of round logs, and was not more than six feet high.

Some of the older persons in this country remember their parents telling of Andrew Crawford, the teacher, and his brother, Josiah Crawford, the latter known as "Blue Nose" Crawford, a name given him by Abraham Lincoln.

Josiah Crawford once loaned Lincoln a copy of a "Life of Washington," and Lincoln got the book wet, for which Crawford charged him 75 cents, a debt that Lincoln paid by working for three days pulling fodder.

The local history is that he never forgave Josiah Crawford, and the name "Blue Nose," that it is said he gave him, is part of the legends of Spencer county to this day.

Of the enemies that Lincoln made, none were greater than some members of the Grigsby family, many of whose descendants still live in this neighborhood. Sarah Lincoln, sister of Abraham, married Aaron Grigsby, and two years later died.

Abraham, it is said, always declared that his sister was not properly treated by the Grigsbys. This brought about a social feud.

A Congressman's Good Record.

Philadelphia Ledger.

A fine old Pennsylvanian passed out of public life when Galusha A. Grow retired from Congress, which he had first entered fifty-two years before, and his fellow citizens of Montrose have done themselves honor in showing honor to him. When it is recalled that Mr. Grow was speaker of the House in the opening year of the civil war, and that he was the author of the Homestead bill, which opened the great West to settlement, we can realize what a marvelous period of history his public service spanned. He brought down to this latter day the serious earnestness, the expansive ideality of the politicians of a former generation. He had nothing in common with the sordid intrigue of the present Pennsylvania machine, which tolerated him only because he lent it a measure of respectability, and dropped him when it no longer needed him. A strong, broad, wholesome, honest man, he represents a type that has become all too rare in political life, and Pennsylvania cannot but witness his retirement with regret.

DELIBERATE STEALING.

Embezzling War Clerk Proved Weakness of Treasury Checks.

Washington Letter in Philadelphia Record.

Two or three official defalcations at the capital recently have furnished food for serious reflection. The amount of public money thus lost has not been alarming, even if we aggregate all the defalcations of the last dozen years. But the fact has apparently been demonstrated that there are no absolute checks, as many presume, to prevent an unbonded $1,800 clerk from stealing if he have opportunity and be so minded, and this is a matter of deep concern.

Since the Howgate episode of thirty years ago perhaps the most spectacular embezzlement or series of embezzlements is that disclosed last week of the clerk Watson, accomplished through reckless forgeries. But while Watson has apparently appropriated to his own use nearly $100,000 of public moneys, his operations in some of their features are by no means so disquieting as those of the late William S. Yeatman, disbursing clerk of the War Department.

While it may be that Yeatman secured less money than is now credited up to Watson's operations, his methods were far more dangerous and his opportunities greater. The most serious aspect of the Yeatman embezzlement was the fact that it could be accomplished in a fiscal office handling millions of dollars of treasury money annually, and presumptively so safeguarded by accounting and auditing checks as to practically make misappropriation impossible.

Yet Yeatman did the trick, and so cleverly that his robberies were not discovered until death laid low the cunning of his brain and hand. He was appointed disbursing clerk of the War Department in 1886 by Mr. Cleveland's first secretary of war, William C. Endicott, having been a clerk in various bureaus of the department for a quarter of a century previously.

He was disbursing clerk about fifteen years and it is roughly estimated that in that period he drew from the Treasury Department and paid out over the counter of the War Department disbursing office over $35,000,000. Besides this great sum in currency and gold he annually disbursed large sums by check, so that his annual aggregate disbursements amounted to between $2,500,000 and $3,000,000. Yet he bore all this weight of responsibility for a salary of $2,000 per year.

He was always attentive to his duties and most people thought he was rather punctilious in their discharge. Nothing was done loosely nor carelessly. The disbursing clerk had no extravagant habits so far as known. He did not speculate nor busy himself with outside affairs of any kind. His long record of usefulness in the department and his excellent reputation raised Yeatman above all suspicion.

His death was very sudden and entirely unexpected. When the accounting officers and Yeatman's nominated successor checked up the office preparatory to turning it over to the latter they were thunderstruck to find that the deceased was short in his accounts. Through suits begun by the government and others against Yeatman's estate it was disclosed that his defalcation approximated $60,000 or $70,000. It is possibly even greater. Nobody knows or ever will know the full extent of the Yeatman shortage.

Yeatman's scheme of money-getting had for its foundation forgery, of course. He mulcted the government by improvising spurious vouchers, as some say; but more probably by raising the amounts in regular ones after they had been signed and sworn to by the payee, approved by the secretary and paid.

The possibility of such complicated frauds was so remote that, in fact, they seem impossible even yet. They were wholly unsuspected by the checking officials.

The important difference between young Watson's methods and those of Yeatman was this: The first was only successful for a time, through the gross carelessness of his superior, whose personal confidence he had gained. In fact, Watson was constantly at the mercy of mere accident. If Auditor Petty had ever made even a casual examination of the office's records in comparison with the bank balances and check books Watson's embezzlements must have stopped years ago.

Not so Yeatman. He, too, enjoyed the confidence of his superiors, but his accounts were passed upon by officials of another department. There was no carelessness to shield him, and he depended on nothing so uncertain. His pay rolls and miscellaneous vouchers were properly checked up monthly in the Treasury Department. There were other checks. He could not draw money from the treasury except on the very eve of payday, and then only on the most careful and exact estimate of pay roll requirements. The disbursing officer is permitted to keep no large amount of funds on hand between paydays. His miscellaneous payments from day to day were by check on the Treasury Department, on sworn vouchers approved by the Secretary of War.

Therefore the only likelihood of discovery in Yeatman's case was that some forged or raised voucher might be bungled in such manner as to arouse suspicion and call for a close investigation of his accounts, such as was precipitated necessarily by his death, and the requirements of his successor in self-protection. But it does not appear that this wary disbursing clerk ever bungled. He was not impatient for millions. He traveled slowly, but his footing was sure. His very moderation is the most alarming feature of Yeatman's frauds. It is not known that a single one of his fraudulent vouchers was ever for a moment questioned in the Treasury Department.

So safe and sure were Yeatman's methods that it has been asserted to the writer by an expert accountant having knowledge of the matter that had Yeatman lived to settle in person his accounts with the checking officers and his successor his embezzlements would never have been discovered, even though they had been continued and even increased.

Yeatman's frauds were evidently not the result of his necessities, for he left some $14,000 in cash in his safe. To the end he retained the confidence of all around him.

The seeming ease and safety through a long term of years with which his operations were prosecuted, notwithstanding the difficulties interposed by law and various administrative devices, arouse doubts as to the efficacy of any of the applied modern methods to safeguard public moneys intrusted for current use to dishonest fiscal agents of the Yeatman class.

Newspapers and the Flood.

Kansas City Journal.

People have no conception of how wholly they are addicted to their reading habit or how important to their lives the daily newspaper has become, until some accident stops their source of supply. During the floods, when mails were delayed, the latest copies of Kansas City papers often sold for 50 cents or $1 in the Kansas towns. Scarcely an exchange comes to the Journal from the flooded region which does not have a story of this kind. And here is a typical one from the Lindsborg Record: "The first paper to reach here from the outside world after the flood cut off communication was the Kansas City Journal. It was brought to McPherson Monday by a traveling man and passed around among the news-hungry people there. On Tuesday Eben Carlsson drove all the way to Lindsborg with that lone paper and it was read and reread until the print was dim. The community owes a vote of thanks to Eben for his act of mercy."

Policy Instead of Passport.

New York Times.

A story has just reached the State Department at Washington of a novel use to which a life insurance policy was recently put by an American traveling in Russia. The citizen in question had neglected to provide himself with a passport, and when he arrived at the borders of the Czar's domains he was held up by an official with a demand for his passport. For an instant the American was stumped, but he quickly rose to the emergency. Diving into his inside pocket he pulled out his life insurance policy and handed it to the Russian. The latter gravely looked the paper over, carefully scrutinizing the imposing looking seal and the array of signatures. With a satisfied air he handed back the paper and the American passed on.